Women Are Now Fighting on European Battlefields Like Amazons of Old

SEX FORGOTTEN AS GIRLS SHAME MALE SLACKERS

By MARGERY REX.

"Women's mission is not only to give life to man but it is also up to us women to teach men how to defend the new-born freedom.

"I will sacrifice my life for my country, and I am sure that I will find followers among women."

No more striking evidence of the changing attitude of the times could be given than these statements from a recent interview by Vera Butchka-reff, a Russian woman worder, whose glorious military achievement as commandar of the "Women's Bat-tallon of Death," in a recent victory over the Germans, is the talk of the world.

Harks Back to Amaso It has always seemed that should a scarcity of men at the front re-quire re-enforcement by women troops the tragedy of war would be com-

pette.

But—
This story of the bravery and courage of this country woman, a native of the province of Tomsk, in Russia, who commanded a company of women and rushed into victory, when brothers, cousins and fathers were on the point of descring, and who captured two lines of trenches and made 1,000 coldier prisoners, reads like the fabled stories of Amasons.

At the first call of war, home-makers in every one of the European countries affected by the present war declared bravely: "We women can fight!"

fight!"
From Germany word came that the crown princess was mobilising an army of women and that she in an army of women and that she in-tended to command them. Then from England came reports of regiments, of women being formed throughout, the empire. There was much don-ning of khaki among the women and a style of dressing very military in cut and character affected.

Along with this demonstration there was an enormous amount of work done in a pacific way by these feminine recruits.

Too Startling a Move.

Too Startling a Move.

But women at the front! It was really too starling to think of it!

If we hark back to the early women warriors, the Amazon stands out as the most picturesque type of fighter. Armed with lance, battle axe, or bow, usually carrying a crescent shield, and mounted on a flery charger, she presented a no whit inferior picture than the daring Cossacia, or other mounted soldiers of these women.

The wisely conserved Serbian, Senial to whose bravery at Kirk Kilseeh resulted in the capture of Turkish guns and prisoners without the loss of one of her brave women followers, has inspired many writers, and tales of her bravery and heroism are abroad in the land.

Austrian front. This necessitated four months' stay in the hospital Impediately on recovery she hurried to Petrograd and asked permission of the Petrograd and asked permission of the president of the Duma. M. Rotting, to organize her famous company of women.

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Serbian "League of Death."

The League of Death in Serbia, recruited from all classes of women, is doubtless one of the flercest rival female organisations to the Russian "Women's Battalion of Death." In "Women's Battalion of Death." In this regiment the daughters of peas-ants fought' side by side with the wives of rich merchants. They were-all bound together with a common cause. With all degrees of casts set aside, they were just a vallant, vigi-lant, womanly band in arms for loved ones and home. Still another Russian beroine is Col. Alexandra Koudesheva, who.

Col. Alexandra Koudeshevs, who, early in the war, was in command of the Sixth Ural Cossack Regiment.

In a diary that has been made, famous on account of her war experiences and impressions, M dasheva gives one an idea of the sen

dasheva gives one an idea of the senantions experienced by a woman under sire. She writes:

A Woman Under Fire.

"A new life of feeling and thinking begins for a woman on the battle-field. When ahe feels the invisible flagers of fate close upon her throat, the problems that interested her before and the feelings that occupied her in peaceful feminine activity vanish. It is not the thrill of sport, ner the horror of being killed that takes

Washington, D. C. August 21, 1917.

Chassified Advertising Manager, The Washington Times.

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Washington, D. C. August 21, 1917. igh. It is not the thrill of sport, nor
the horror of being killed that takes
hold of the mind on the firing line.
Austrian women are also on the
honor roll for bravery and daring.
Stefa Falies, a young Croatian, enlisted with her husband in the same

regiment. Her sex was known and she was not forced to wear men's at-

she was not forced to weak mane at tire. She has been made a corporal for her bravery in the field. Stanislawa Ordinaka enlisted white manquerading as a man in the Polish Legion for Austria. Before it was discovered she was a woman she had been made a sergeant for bravery. She were allowed to keep her rank She was allowed to keep her rank

Madame Marfo Maiko, the wife of a Russian officer, when war was declared changed her attire and joined the army. She withstood all the rigors of the winter's campaign, but was finally captured. At the prisoner's disinfecting station has refusal to be bathed aroused the suspicions of the Germans, and her sex was dis-

Inspired by Death.

It was the death of Vera Butchkareff's husband which prompted her to organize the "Woman's Battalion of Death," of which she became the

commander.

Learning early in May of 1915 that
her husband was dead on the German
frontier, she enlisted in the Twentyfifth Reserve Corps of Tomsk, to continue his work, and after a short
training went with a company to the
front to fill the ranks. The colonel
of the restiment enlisted her as a of the regiment enliated her as a regular in the Twenty-eighth Polotzk

Wounded, But Wouldn't Quit.

For three months Vera Butchkareff fought with a rife. She was wound-ed in the leg early in March, 1916, but remained at the front with her comrades. After the commander and the captain were killed she led the oldiers in an attack that proved suc-

She was wounded later by a frag-ment of shell when fighting on the



MME BUTCHKAREFF

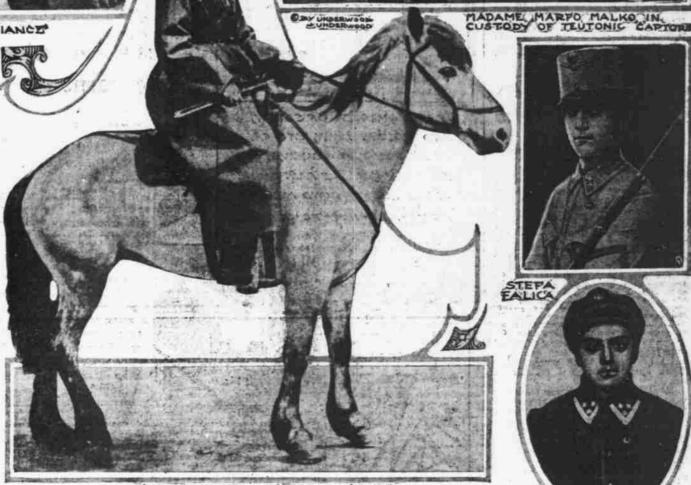
fear.
"I think American girls would be juts as brave of their Russian sister if confronted with the same difficul

"Let the men of Russia and Amer ica, too, look to those heroic women fighters of Russia and they will hang their heads in shame to think that women had to spur them on in this





"AN AMAZON"- BRONZE STATUETTE FROM HERCULANEUM



COL, ALEXANDRA KOUDASHEVA



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To the Classified Manager, The Washingto

To the Classified Manager, The Washington Times.

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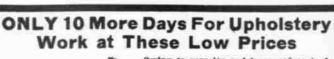


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